

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated May 17, 2006, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration based on the above claim amendments and the following remarks.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-21 are pending. Claims 1-21 have been rejected. Claims 1, 13 and 21 are independent claims from which claims 2-12 and 14-20 respectively depend. While Applicants do not agree with the grounds for rejection, in the interest of furthering prosecution, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 13 and 21 to more particularly point out the invention, which renders the stated grounds for rejection moot. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, define over the prior art. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendments can be found at in the application as originally filed in paragraphs 31- 40, and elsewhere.

Claims 1-12 and 21 have been rejected under 35 USC 101. Claims 1 and 21 have been amended to overcome the 101 rejection. Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims are proper and request the withdrawal of the 101 rejections of these claims.

Claims 1-22 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Zou et al., ("Web-Based Specification and Integration of Legacy Services). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-22, as amended are patentable because Zou does not disclose or suggest all the features of Applicants' amended claims, as exemplified by amended claim 1. Applicant's amended claim 1 recites:

A computer-implemented system for providing a standardized adaptor framework comprising:

a configuration user interface module for receiving a configuration schema describing configuration information, *wherein the configuration user interface module displays a single unified user interface for interfacing with any adaptor;*

a metadata utility for *automated discovery of service descriptions, the metadata utility receiving at least one metadata file providing data interface information and service description information; and*

generating from the configuration schema and the metadata file a configuration file and a service selection file required by an adaptor to connect to an application.

(emphasis added).

Zou describes an integration middleware solution that gloms multiple back-end systems together and enables web applications to connect to it. The solution focuses on the use of the Web as an open infrastructure where services and tasks can be defined and enacted so that software components that were developed independently can be integrated to perform complex business tasks. The solution does not disclose or suggest at least providing a single unified user interface to all adaptors however, as recited in amended claim 1. In fact, Zou teaches against such a solution in the second full paragraph on page 5, that is, each interface is customized to the service provided. Furthermore, Applicants' claims recite an automated discovery of service descriptions. In Zou, the developer needs to manually create these files, and then select and store them in the service repository. As Zou does not disclose or suggest all the features of Applicants' amended claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable and request the withdrawal of the 102 rejections of these claims. As amended independent claims 13 and 21 include analogous features, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims and the claims that depend from them are also allowable and request the withdrawal of the 102 rejections of these claims as well.

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PATENT

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present Application is in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejections of the claims and an early allowance is earnestly solicited.

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